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SAWMILL CREEK REPORT

DEPARTMENT OF STATE PLANNING

Maryland. Dept. of State Planning.

S A W M I L L C R E E K

R E P O R T.

Prepared by the
Department of State Planning

Vladimir A. Wahbe, Secretary

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VLADIMIR A. WAHBE
SECRETARY OF STATE PLANNING

March 3, 1978

Honorable Steny H. Hoyer
President of the Senate
H-107 State House
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Dear Senator Hoyer:

Enclosed for your information is a copy of the "Sawmill Creek Report," which is in response to SJR 75 (1977). It was prepared by the Department of State Planning with the assistance of the Department of Natural Resources, local government officials, and citizen input. This report was completed without additional resources and carried out along with the regular duties and responsibilities of the Department.

The "Sawmill Creek Report" deals with the request "to amend the State's Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation and Open Space Plan to include the purchase and development of a State park using the lands on the headwaters of Sawmill Creek." There are four major sections in this report: Findings and Recommendations, Inventory of Surrounding Conditions, Inventory of On-site Conditions, and Analysis of the Sawmill Creek Area as related to the current work in updating the State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan. In addition, three appendices are included: SJR 75 (1977), Anne Arundel County Council Resolution 26-77 (1977), and Recreation and Open Space Plan Phase II Policies and Recommendations.

If you have any questions or need additional information concerning this report, please feel free to contact this Department.

Sincerely,

Vladimir Wahbe

cc: Honorable Blair Lee
Honorable John Hanson Briscoe
Honorable Harry J. McGuirk
Honorable Michael J. Wagner
Mr. Michael Volk

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INTRODUCTION

This study constitutes the Department's response to Senate Joint Resolution No. 75, 1977 (see Appendix 1). The Department was requested to amend the State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation and Open Space Plan to include the purchase and development of a State park using the lands on the headwaters of Sawmill Creek in Anne Arundel County.

This resolution received the support of the Anne Arundel County Council in the form of Resolution No. 26-27, 1977 (see Appendix 2). That County resolution noted that 27 citizen organizations in the northern part of Anne Arundel County also supported the Sawmill Creek Park proposal.

The Department of State Planning is charged with preparing recommending, and updating an integrated outdoor recreation and open space program. The State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) is designed to promote the efficient development of a recreation and open space system for the State's citizens. This Plan is divided into three phases. The Plan when seen as a whole guides and directs State and local planning, acquisition, and development programs for parks and recreation areas. The Plan also assures eligibility under the Federal Land and Water Conservation Program and Program Open Space.

In order to insure that the SCORP remains a viable source of guidance and to maintain eligibility under Option II of the Federal Land and Water Program, it must be updated. In 1978, the Annual Plan Update Reports will be replaced by a revised plan and thereby continue the State's eligibility. Currently, the Department of State Planning is in the process of preparing this updated plan.

The general study area includes the major tributaries of Sawmill Creek from Furnace Branch at Maryland Route 2, upstream to its headwaters south of Baltimore-Washington International Airport. East of Maryland Route 3, the general study area follows the stream bed quite closely due to the extensive areas of existing urban development. West of Route 3 and north of Dorsey, the general study area includes three tributaries which cross a large open area that is currently in agricultural use. The remainder of the general study area is bounded on the north by Dorsey Road, on the south by Donaldson Avenue and Quarterfield Road, on the east by Route 3, and on the west by Route 652.

The Department conducted an interdepartmental and interjurisdictional study of the Sawmill Creek area. The Department of State Planning asked the Department of Natural Resources, Land Planning Services' staff to participate in the study along with the Anne Arundel County Office of Planning and Zoning. An exchange of available data was the first task to be accomplished. Next, departmental staff conducted a windshield inspection and limited survey on foot of the proposed study area to collect first-hand impressions. Useful information also resulted from departmental participation in the Sawmill Creek Citizens Association field trips and associated discussions.

The following study is based upon a review of all of the data collected and it incorporates the Department's findings. The findings and recommendations are contained in the section of the report following the introduction. Next, the conditions surrounding the area under study are inventoried. A wide variety of pertinent factors are reviewed including land use, drainage, aesthetics, public utilities and facilities and transportation. The fourth section of the study focuses upon the on-site conditions. Both man-made

factors and natural resources are considered. Zoning, land utilization, facilities and utilities and property boundaries are the man-made factors examined. Soils, topography, drainage, geology, vegetation, and wildlife make up the natural resources component.

The State Comprehensive Open Space and Recreation Plan (SCORP) updating process provides the context within which the Sawmill Creek area is analyzed in the next section of this study. First, a general overview of the State-wide recreation planning perspective is discussed. Then, the Open Space and Recreation Plan Phase II policies are reviewed for their applicability to the Sawmill Creek area. The ongoing SCORP revision process is utilized in the remainder of this section as a basis for analysis. The statewide capability determination data developed for the SCORP update are also reviewed. Several documents are included as appendices. These are referred to in various places in the text.

FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Based upon the analysis of surrounding conditions, natural and man-made on-site conditions, and review and analysis within the State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation and Open Space Plan, it has been determined that it is not appropriate to amend the State's Recreation Plan to include the Sawmill Creek Area as a State Park.

While the Sawmill Creek Area is in need of expanded recreational opportunities, the recreational needs of the area can be best met with the provision of active or intensive recreational activities, much like those that currently exist within the general area. The detailed study area has a moderate to high potential for supporting active or intensive recreational facilities and a moderate potential to support limited day use recreational opportunities.

The Sawmill Creek Area does not display significant or unique natural features and has a low potential for supporting overall conservation and/or preservation of the site. It is felt that a combined State and County effort should be utilized to provide the area with expanded active or intensive and limited day use recreational opportunities. The following recommendations have been formulated to provide expanded recreational opportunities for the Sawmill Creek Area:

1. The State should cooperate with the County in those instances where State facilities can be utilized east of Md. Rt. #3 to link the existing recreation facilities.
2. The County should link the existing recreation facilities along Sawmill Creek east of Md. Rt. #3 through the use of signs, trails, foot bridges, and/or easements.

3. The Hammonds Ferry Road elevated crossing of Md. Rt. #3 should be provided with signs and appropriate devices by the County to separate and direct recreation related pedestrian/bicycle traffic from automobile traffic.

4. The County and/or State should seek to gain easements and/or acquire land along Sawmill Creek which would link Friendship Park to Hammonds Ferry Road. This would include the eastern group of properties designated as first priority for acquisition and development.

5. The lease agreement for Friendship Park should be reviewed and, if necessary, changed to reinforce the linking recreation facilities along Sawmill Creek.

6. The State should improve the condition of Sawmill Creek at any point where a State road or State-owned property adjoins the Creek.

7. The County should seek to gain easements and/or acquire land along the main stem and the branches of Sawmill Creek east of WB&A Road not now in public ownership or under adequate control by applicable County laws. This would include the remaining first priority properties as well as several second priority properties.

8. The State should mitigate any potentially negative impacts upon Sawmill Creek which might result from the construction and operation of Md. Rt. #100 extended. This would primarily involve third priority properties south of Queenstown Road and adjacent to the Route 3 and Route 100 interchange.

9. A protected pedestrian/bicycle pathway should be provided by the County along Queenstown Road from the Severn Recreation Area to WB&A Road.

10. The County should encourage the existing compatible and complementary residential activities adjacent to the branches of the Sawmill Creek.

11. The County should utilize the available zoning, subdivision, and/or other development controls to protect Sawmill Creek and its branches which could remain in private ownership. This would include the second priority area along Dorsey Road between Friendship Park and Hammonds Ferry Road.

12. The County and State should insure that any subsequent development of the special treatment area would not degrade the water quality of Sawmill Creek or its tributaries.

13. The development of any public facilities of a non-recreational nature along Sawmill Creek should include provisions for continued or improved access to the creek.

INVENTORY OF SURROUNDING CONDITIONS

Land Use Patterns

It is important to determine what the functional relationships are between a site proposed for a park and its surroundings. The design of the proposed park as well as its capabilities to meet recreation demands and aesthetic needs can be developed from this information on functional relationships. The proximity of other recreation facilities and the incorporation of dedicated subdivision recreational land also needs to be examined.

A vicinity map of the area under study is included to orient those not familiar with the area. It is felt that the following discussion will be more useful if the map and text are used together. Though the map is not repeatedly referenced, it is hoped that the reader will refer to it whenever necessary.

The land uses present in the northern most part of Anne Arundel County cover a wide range. They vary from urban to suburban to rural. The presence of the Baltimore-Washington Expressway and Maryland Route 3, strongly influence the existing land use patterns in this part of the County. The largest single facility in the area is the Baltimore-Washington International Airport. A number of State and County roads provide good access to the northern part of Anne Arundel County.

The area east of Maryland Route 3 is highly urbanized. Governor Ritchie Highway bisects this area from the north to south. The Community of Glen Burnie dominates the area with a land use mix of residential, commercial, and support services. A considerable amount of the open urban area is devoted to schools, churches, or the preservation of the remaining stream valleys of Cabin Branch

VICINITY MAP

A TIMBER RIDGE

B McPHERSON

C BURLEYTOWN

D ELMHURST

E FRIENDSHIP PARK

F SAWMILL PARK

G SEVERN PARK

····· DETAILED STUDY AREA

1" = 1 mile

Figure 1.

Creek, Furnace Branch Creek, and Sawmill Creek. There are no significant areas devoted to agriculture.

The area north of Route 176, and west of Maryland Route 3 is not as highly developed as the Glen Burnie community to the east. The Ferndale area does not have extensive commercial areas, except along Fort Meade Road. Some land in the area is devoted to agricultural use and stream valley preservation. The majority of the Ferndale area is single-family medium density residential.

The Baltimore-Washington International Airport occupies approximately 3,000 acres of open and wooded land. A full schedule of national and international flights utilize the airport along with business and private aviation. Airport terminal expansion is currently in progress.

South of the airport the land uses are also mixed, but commercial uses are fewer and more isolated than the areas east of the airport. An extensive network of woodland is interspersed with suburban single-family residential areas. The majority of the agricultural land south of the airport is found along Maryland Route 170 (Telegraph Road) in the vicinity of Buckingham Nursery. Several rural residential areas can be distinguished such as McPherson, Burleytown, Elmhurst, and Timber Ridge. In addition, scattered residences can be found along the rural lanes. Friendship Park along Dorsey Road and the Severn Recreation Area along Queenstown Road are important recreation facilities.

Aesthetics

The Sawmill Creek area is surrounded by a variety of visual environments. To the north single-family residential areas can be found adjacent to industrial areas or wetland areas. Extensive commercial establishments are clustered in a strip along Ritchie Highway. To the east the former U.S. Army Ordinance Depot

adjoins Curtis Creek as do a variety of other industrial uses.

Glen Burnie proper continues the strip commercial development to the north. Single-family subdivisions are found throughout the area. Little undeveloped open space exists except along the stream valleys. Churches, schools, and other community facilities are scattered about to provide needed services. Generally, the Greater Glen Burnie area needs a focus or separation from other similar areas. High traffic volumes along the surface boulevards and limited access expressways are common in the area.

Baltimore-Washington International Airport has a pronounced effect on the surrounding area. The noise resulting from aircraft takeoffs and landings is perhaps the most notable problem. Those areas which have remained in a fairly stable condition are those where development was advanced due to historical factors (such as proximity to Baltimore City). The residential areas of Linthicum and Ferndale can be thought of in this manner. Areas equally impacted but not developed for residential purposes have tended towards industrial uses or have remained undeveloped.

South of the airport noise is also an important aesthetic consideration. A map of noise contours is included to show the areas impacted by noise. There are no land forms which could provide any "buffer" from the noise. Only the presence of the relatively complete tree cover might help mitigate the noise problem. The semi-rural nature of the area with its scattered residences is in sharp contrast to the few nodes or subdivisions which can be found. No real focus can be found here but at least a "subdivision upon subdivision" condition is not evident.

Public Utility and Facility Locations and Capacities

A variety of large and small park and recreation facilities can be found

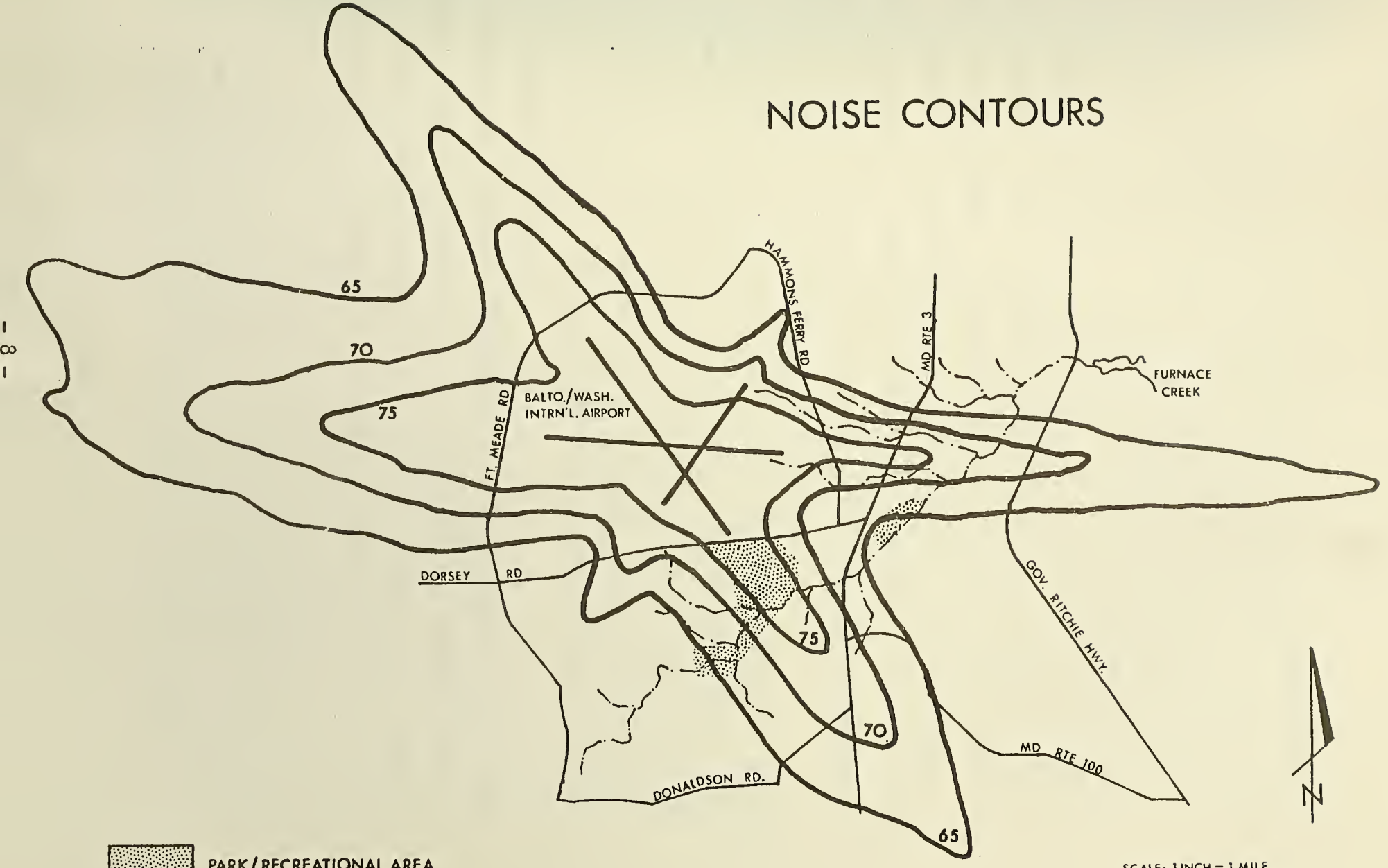

NOISE CONTOURS
65
70
75
BALTO./WASH.
INTRN'L. AIRPORT
FT. MEADE RD
HAMMONS FERRY RD
MD RTE 3
FURNACE
CREEK
DORSEY RD
GOV. RITCHIE HWY.
MD RTE 100
DONALDSON RD.
N
PARK/RECREATIONAL AREA
SCALE: 1 INCH = 1 MILE
SCORCE: MDOT DEC. '75

Figure 2

in the area. At North Glen several substantial recreation facilities exist which consist of playgrounds, a football field, several little league fields, basketball, volleyball, tennis, and handball courts as well as picnic areas. Severn Recreation Area has several baseball fields, a football field, basketball courts, and several tennis courts. The Glen Burnie Sawmill Creek Park has play areas, several baseball fields, a softball and football field, several basketball courts, and several handball and tennis courts as well as picnic areas. Friendship Park has play/picnic areas and a softball field.

In addition, other smaller recreation areas like the one at Old Stage Road are available to serve area residents. The elementary, junior, and senior high schools should also be noted. They are evenly distributed throughout the area and provide facilities for community recreation.

A high voltage electrical line and its associated right-of-way is located near Sawmill Creek from north of the Dorsey Road, Maryland Route 648 intersection to W.B. and A. Road. At Maryland Route 3 this electric line crosses from the northern side to the southern side of the creek. Other high voltage lines are found in the area but they do not provide any direct impact upon the creek or the adjacent drainage area.

Generally the area east of Maryland Route 3 is served with public sewer and water lines. While on the other hand the area west of Maryland Route 3 is only partially served by water lines and not served by sewer lines. Therefore, all existing development west of Maryland Route 3 uses some form of on-site waste treatment and will continue to do so for some time.

The communities north and east of the Baltimore-Washington International Airport are presently served by public water transmission lines. A well and water treatment plant are located along Sawmill Creek just east of Old

Annapolis Road at Dorsey Road. Generally, the main lines follow the major transportation routes in the area.

The area west of Maryland Route 3 and south of the airport is not fully served by the public water supply system. Areas along Maryland Route 176, Route 652, and Maryland Route 170 as well as Queenstown Road are served by public water (McPherson, Burleytown, and Queenstown). Other communities such as Elmhurst and Timber ridge are not served by a public water supply. Munson Heights is in the immediate priority water service category. Several new water transmission lines are proposed for immediate priority construction as well as future construction.

Another water treatment plant is located just west of Maryland Route 3 near Sawmill Creek. It has a 6.0 MGD capacity. A well system is also nearby on airport property north of Dorsey Road.

The majority of the area around Sawmill Creek are served by the Cox Creek Sewage Treatment Plant. This includes part of the airport, Ferndale, Fernglen Manor, Glen Gardens, Glen Burnie, Harundale, Oadwood Manor, Glen Burnie Park, McPherson, Burleytown, and Queenstown. The remaining western portion of the airport and those areas generally west of Route 652 are served by a Baltimore City sewage treatment plant on the Patapsco River. The area generally south of Donaldson Avenue and west of Maryland Route 3 is served by the Broadneck Sewage Treatment Plant. Within these various service areas some places have service and others do not.

East of Maryland Route 3 almost all areas have public sewer service. The only exceptions occur in areas adjacent to Sawmill Creek where service is proposed for 6 to 10 years in the future. The largely undeveloped areas between Hammonds Ferry Road and Maryland Route 3 and south of Westdale Park are in the

11 to 20 year future service category. Regardless of the treatment plant service areas designation, all of the land south of the airport, east of Maryland Doute 170, west of Maryland Route 3, and north of Donaldson Avenue is also in the 11 to 20 year future service category. Further south some areas could receive sewer service in 3 to 5 years. The majority of the land on both sides of the Penn Central Railroad south of Dorsey Road is in the 6 to 10 year future service category. Only the Severn Elementary School area and Munson Heights are in the immediate priority category.

Transportation and Circulation Systems

A variety of interstate, State, and County roads interconnect the northern part of Anne Arundel County with the rest of the region and the State. Generally speaking, the area has high accessibility. Interstate 695 provides regional access and interchanges with the Baltimore-Wahington Parkway, Fort Meade Road, Maryland Route 648, Maryland Route 3, Maryland Route 2, and the Arundel Expressway. Maryland Route 3, and Route 100 provide a limited access route through the area. Governor Ritchie Highway constitutes the commercial spine of the area. County roads feed traffic onto the high volume highways. West of Maryland Route 3 local roads are predominant. Maryland Route 170 parallels Route 3 with a number of local roads cross-connecting these two roads. Traffic volumes west of Route 3 are substantially lower than those to the east.

Planning and design studies are underway for improvements to Route 3, Route 170, Route 100, and the Baltimore-Washington Parkway. In addition, the extension of the Arundel Expressway is scheduled to begin by 1981.

A highway corridor study is currently underway for Maryland Route 100. This corridor study has been combined with the Maryland Route 32 study. The

Sawmill Creek Detailed Study Area is included in the larger corridor study. At this point the Right-of-Way of Route 100 across the study area is not known.

A light rail or surface trolley corridor study for a line from Baltimore to Dorsey Road will probably begin in the early 1980's. The proposed route will probably follow Maryland Route 3. The development of bikeways in Anne Arundel County is just beginning. Within the 13 projects identified for construction over the next five years the longest and most costly would pass through the study area and across Sawmill Creek. This is the W.B. and A. Road Bikeway from the Severn River to Dorsey Road. This priority through bikeway would eventually be extended along Dorsey Road to the County line. Also within the vicinity, proposals have been made to develop bikeways along Old Annapolis Road from the Patapsco River to Glen Burnie, as well as along Hammonds Ferry Road and Telegraph Road.

Summary

A relatively high level of urbanization surrounds the Sawmill Creek Area. As a result, the man-made environment significantly encroaches upon the creek. Generally, the conditions are like those found in local stream valley open space and recreation areas. The noise resulting from airport operations tends to increase the degree of intrustion. Even the interspersion of lower density residential areas tends to restrict the extensiveness of the natural environment. A good public facilities system is present which includes a mix of roads, schools and recreation facilities. This system could be complimented by some additional development of local recreation facilities. However, the potential for adverse impacts from Rt. 100 should be considered. Future sewer line extensions and the resulting growth could further decrease the quality of

the natural environment, while providing opportunities for other recreational development.

INVENTORY OF ON-SITE CONDITIONS

The following section discusses the most important aspects of the Sawmill Creek area. An analysis occurs in the next section after all of the pertinent facts have been reviewed. It is hoped that this approach will eliminate the problems which might result from mixing an explanation of the data with an analysis.

Detailed Study Area Description

Based upon the guidance provided by the Legislature, participating State and local agencies, citizen groups, and the Department's review of the area's natural and man-made characteristics, a group of properties were selected for further detailed analysis. Properties were selected which could be combined into priority clusters with the existing park and recreation areas (Friendship, Glen Burnie, Sawmill Creek, Severn) to form a proposed Sawmill Creek Park. For the purposes of this report, it is proposed that a total of approximately 1,060 acres should be analyzed in detail. This would include the approximately 230 acres of park and recreation areas already available. (See Figure 3)

Three different priority areas were defined along with a special treatment area. These help to provide a framework within which park acquisition and development could be staged if approved. Each priority area has characteristics which set it apart from the others, but which do not override the more general attributes that hold all of the parcels together as a unit. The first priority area consists of properties which would be of primary importance because they are adjacent to both Sawmill Creek and Friendship Park. The second priority area consists of properties which would safeguard the main stem and several branches of the Creek and continue the proposed park west of W.B.

DETAILED STUDY AREA
BALTIMORE WASHINGTON INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
SPECIAL TREATMENT AREA
HAMMONS FERRY RD
GLEN BERNIE BYPASS
DORSEY RD
FURNACE CR
GOVERNOR RITCHIE HWY
GLEN BURNIE
FORT MEADE RD
DORSEY RD
QUEENSTOWN RD
MD 652
MD 170
RAILROAD BED RD
QUARTERFIELD RD
DONALDSON RD
CRAIN HWY
MD 100
MD 648
ARUNDEL EXP
PARK/RECREATIONAL AREA
FIRST PRIORITY
SECOND PRIORITY
THIRD PRIORITY
SPECIAL TREATMENT AREA

and A. Road. The third priority area consists of properties which could be directly impacted by Rt. 100.

The first priority area adjoins Friendship Park and the Severn Recreation Area. Three large parcels plus eleven smaller ones make up a total of approximately 220 acres. The second priority area consists of a number of smaller parcels (approximately 120 acres) which fill in or extend the first priority area in a complementary fashion. The third priority area is generally south of any of the other areas with one exception. They total approximately 230 acres. Finally, a special treatment area east of Route 3 was included. It was set apart because of its location and agricultural land use. It consists of approximately 260 acres.

The existing open space and recreation nodes could be connected by property acquisitions in order to create a stream valley park system which could serve a dual function, of protecting the natural environment and providing a continuous open space and outdoor recreation system to serve the local community.

Man-Made Factors

Zoning

A map has been produced which shows the zoning of parcels in and around Sawmill Creek. Some generalization has been permitted where the areas involved were too small to be shown or where similar zones could be combined without changing the character of an area. (See Figure 4)

Starting from Ritchie Highway and Furnace Creek, OS (open space) zoning surrounds the creek. R5 (residential) zoning can be found between the open space areas and the C3 and C4 (commercial) zoning along Ritchie Highway. A reasonable amount of W2 (light industrial) and W1B (industrial development)

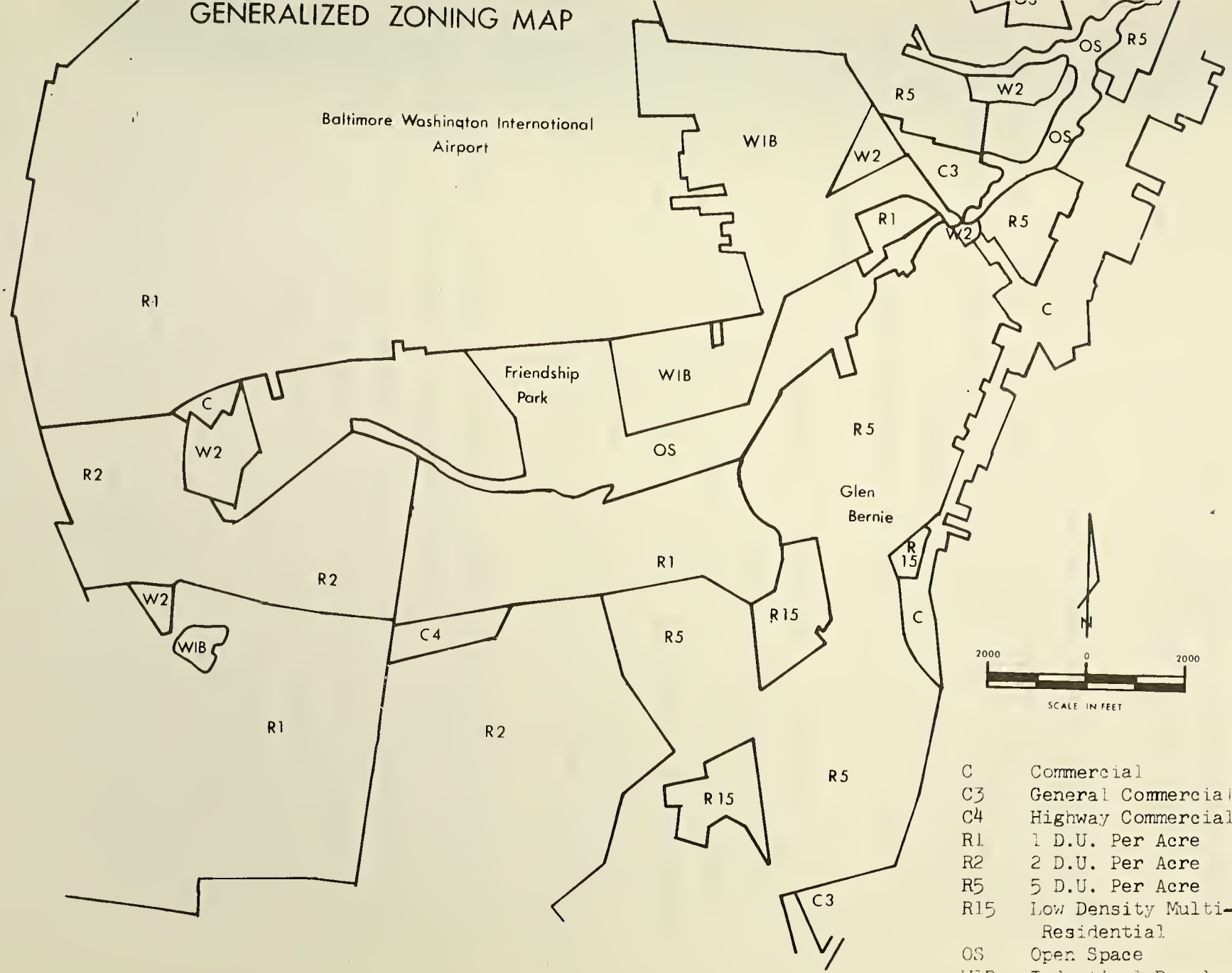

GENERALIZED ZONING MAP
Baltimore Washington International Airport
Friendship Park
Glen Bernie
R1
R2
R5
R15
C
C3
C4
W1B
W2
OS
2000
0
2000
SCALE IN FEET
C Commercial
C3 General Commercial
C4 Highway Commercial
R1 1 D.U. Per Acre
R2 2 D.U. Per Acre
R5 5 D.U. Per Acre
R15 Low Density Multi-Family Residential
OS Open Space
W1B Industiral Development
W2 Light Industrial

Figure 4.

can be found between Sawmill Creek and Route 3. A large open area west of Route 3 is drained by several Sawmill Creek tributaries. This area bounded by Hammonds Ferry Road, while currently in agricultural use, is zoned W1B and consists of several hundred acres.

Just west of Route 3 more W1B zoning can be found. Here too the use differs from the zoning. Nonconforming residences are scattered through the area. With the exception of the small southern tip of Friendship Park the entire tract is zoned OS. The creek plus a small area just to the south are also zoned OS, thus linking the open space zoning east of Route 3 with the areas to the west of Route 3 and Friendship Park.

With the exception of approximately 20 acres near the intersection of W.B. and A. Road and Quuenstown Road, large areas are zoned residential (R1, R2, R5). These zones permit single-family development on a variety of lot sizes. However, the character of the area would be rather homogenous. Some additional W1B zoning fronts on Dorsey Road west of Friendship Park. A nonconforming residential enclave grew over the years on this land which is now industrially zoned.

In summary, it appears that industrial zoning is used to buffer BWI where open land is still available. Some small residential areas exist in these industrial buffers due to historical factors, but they are considered nonconforming uses. The trend is therefore away from residential toward industrial. The open space zoning of Sawmill Creek acts as a boundary of transition to the residential areas to the south. OS zoning does not follow the creek through those residential areas; however, due to the less intensive character of that type of development perhaps this is not necessary. There is a high degree of compatibility between open space and residentially zoned areas and potential

recreation areas. More intensive recreational activities may be appropriate for the residentially zoned areas. On the other hand, the presence of industrial zoning would seriously reduce recreation and open space potential.

Existing Land and Structure Use

The majority of the buildings in the detailed study area are single family residential units, trailers, or accessory buildings (garages, etc.). In a few areas they are uniformly spaced, but in most cases they vary substantially in their locations with respect to each other and to the paved roads. Many have private drives or loops which may or may not be paved that intersect the main roads at many different points.

As a rule few if any buildings front upon the creek, instead they usually back upon the creek. In some cases these rear yards are maintained up to the creek bed and in others a scattering of woods or undergrowth separate the yards from the creek.

Few vacant buildings were present in the area. No significant agricultural enterprises are found within the detailed study area west of Maryland Route 3. The low density nature of the residential land uses along with the presence of wooded areas seems to have increased the incidence of outside storage of materials as well as scattered small scale dumping. These activities tend to reduce the visual appeal of many of the residential areas.

Perhaps the largest area of undeveloped land in the detailed study area is located north of the Severn Recreation Area and south of the end of Arundel Road in the McPherson area. The western boundary of this unused but "residentially" zoned land (R1.) is W.B. and A. Road.

Generally speaking, the existing land and structure utilization patterns do not present problems for recreation or open space activities. Only those

cases where dumping has occurred in proximity to the creek would require corrective measures. However, potential use of an undeveloped area adjacent to a branch of the creek for industrial purposes would conflict with its use as open space.

Roads and Utilities

The detailed study area includes several paved county roads, as well as paved and unimproved private roads and trails. West of Maryland, Rt. 3, the main stem of Sawmill Creek is crossed once by Queenstown Road and once by W.B. and A. Road. Several other streets cross the various tributaries of the creek in many different places. These streets tend to wind throughout the area, looping and going off at different angles. Between Maryland Rt. 3 and Queenstown Road it appears that no improved or unimproved road crosses Sawmill Creek's main water course at any point. However, at several locations roads appear to be only several hundred feet from the creek. With a few exceptions the roads do not have curbs and widewalks (in the detailed study area). Storm water drainage has been provided where needed in the normal fashion for rural road construction. If Rt. 100 is extended through the detailed study area, it is reasonable to assume that it will effect the creek and its development as a recreation area.

Existing water lines are located in or near the paved roads for the most part. One will recall that sewer lines are not present in the detailed study area. If sewer lines were installed they would probably not follow the existing street pattern as closely as the water lines do because of the need to provide for gravity flows wherever possible. It is possible that sewer lines would be extended in or near the creek itself to provide sewer service to the area.

A high voltage electric line of the Baltimore Gas and Electric Company follows the main stream of the creek from Maryland Rt. 3 to W.B. and A. Road. Generally it is located to the south and east of the creek bed but follows a more regular right-of-way than the creek itself.

Friendship Park and the Severn Recreation Area constitute the major creek-oriented public recreation facilities in the detailed study area west of Rt. 3. East of Rt. 3, the Sawmill Creek Recreation Area is the major creek-oriented recreation facility.

The existence of local roads in the detailed study area reduces its natural and open space potential while providing access for intensive recreation facilities. This condition would be even more apparent if Rt. 100 were to pass through the area. The design of buffer areas would probably be most compatible with active or intensive recreation areas and not natural areas. The construction of sewer lines in or near the creek would reduce its natural potential but may provide opportunities for recreational facilities construction.

Property Descriptions

The size, number, configuration, and relationship of the properties which could be utilized for a proposed park is important. These factors provide impediments to or opportunities for acquisition and/or development of a proposed park. The following discussion will focus upon any benefits or problems which could result from the existing property ownership patterns in the area as well as note some of the more important land holdings. If necessary, refer to Figure 3 on page 15 while following the discussion below.

Perhaps the most important single piece of property in the over 1,000 acres, earlier placed in three priority clusters for detailed examination, is the tract shown on tax maps as the Sarah Dicus property. This 47 acre tract is

located just west and north of the Route 100 overpass on Route 3. It is bisected in the east-west direction by the main stem of Sawmill Creek. This property adjoins the existing Friendship Park. Indirect access to the Creek could be provided either across or just west of the tract shown as the Frederick Heckner property on the tax maps. It has frontage on Stewart Avenue/Hammonds Ferry Road and adjoins the Dicus property.

The next most important properties are those just south of Friendship Park and west of the Dicus property. A series of six long narrow (north-south) lots consisting of approximately 13 acres are all bisected by Sawmill Creek. They are the only properties that also include the stream course which could provide a continuous link between the Dicus property and the existing Friendship Park.

The remaining properties in the first priority group are somewhat varied, but generally permit the preservation of stream branches or the main stem upstream of the Severn Recreation Area. The largest tract is the Landco Limited Partnership parcel of just over 100 acres. Two branches of the creek drain this property which is roughly rectangular. Across from the Severn Recreation area four parcels straddle the creek bed. The creek flows into these properties from a series of second priority properties to the west. The last of the first priority properties found on the tax maps is part of the George Clauss Tract. Located south of the adjoining Dicus tract, this piece would provide additional buffering and protect another stream branch.

The second priority properties are located in three separate groups. The first is south of Dorsey Road and consists of a substantial number of narrow improved lots which all back onto a branch of the creek. The next group of about 6 parcels on both sides of W.B. and A. Road preserve the western most

extent of two branches of the creek. Finally, as noted earlier, the third group of approximately ten parcels continues the preservation of the main stem of the creek.

The third priority properties are broken into three groups, but one of those consists of only one property which is another segment of the Clauss property. To the north another series of long narrow lots, approximately ten, would provide continuity between priority one and priority two areas. A string of about a dozen properties make up the remaining third priority properties. They would permit the preservation of the last visible parts of the creek which could be tied together as a unit.

The special treatment area consists of three large tracts and several smaller ones between Hammonds Ferry Road and the Glen Burnie By-Pass. Three branches of the creek cross these properties which are currently in agricultural use. The special treatment area is isolated from the existing and proposed park and recreation areas by industrial land uses and the Glen Burnie By-Pass.

Normally, a large continuous tract is desirable to create the natural setting found in most State parks. On the other hand, the linking of properties in a linear fashion to provide activity nodes is usually seen in local park systems. Together they can provide a full range of recreational opportunities.

Natural Resources

Soil Types

Data on alluvial soils and wildlife habitat interspersion (page 34) for both the surrounding area and the detailed study area was obtained from the data files of the Maryland Automated Geographic Information System. The data

files developed for an ongoing project were used in conjunction with computer programming to develop a special study area. Information areas or cells of 4.5 acres each were used as the basis for the computerized maps. A map of the Computer Study Area is provided to assist one in the use of both the alluvial soils and wildlife habitat interspersion maps.

The following discussion uses terminology and other information obtained from the Soil Survey of Anne Arundel County, Maryland, USDA/SCS, 1973. Along the entire length of Sawmill Creek alluvial soils are in evidence as illustrated by the Map of Alluvial Soils. These Bibb soils can be found approximately 125 feet on either side of the creek bed. Obvious flood hazards and sever limitations on road or trail construction exist in these areas. Generally the soils between the Sawmill Creek and Ritchie Highway are Evesboro-Urban land complex soils. This land has been extensively disturbed during development. The surface layer is usually sand or loamy sand.

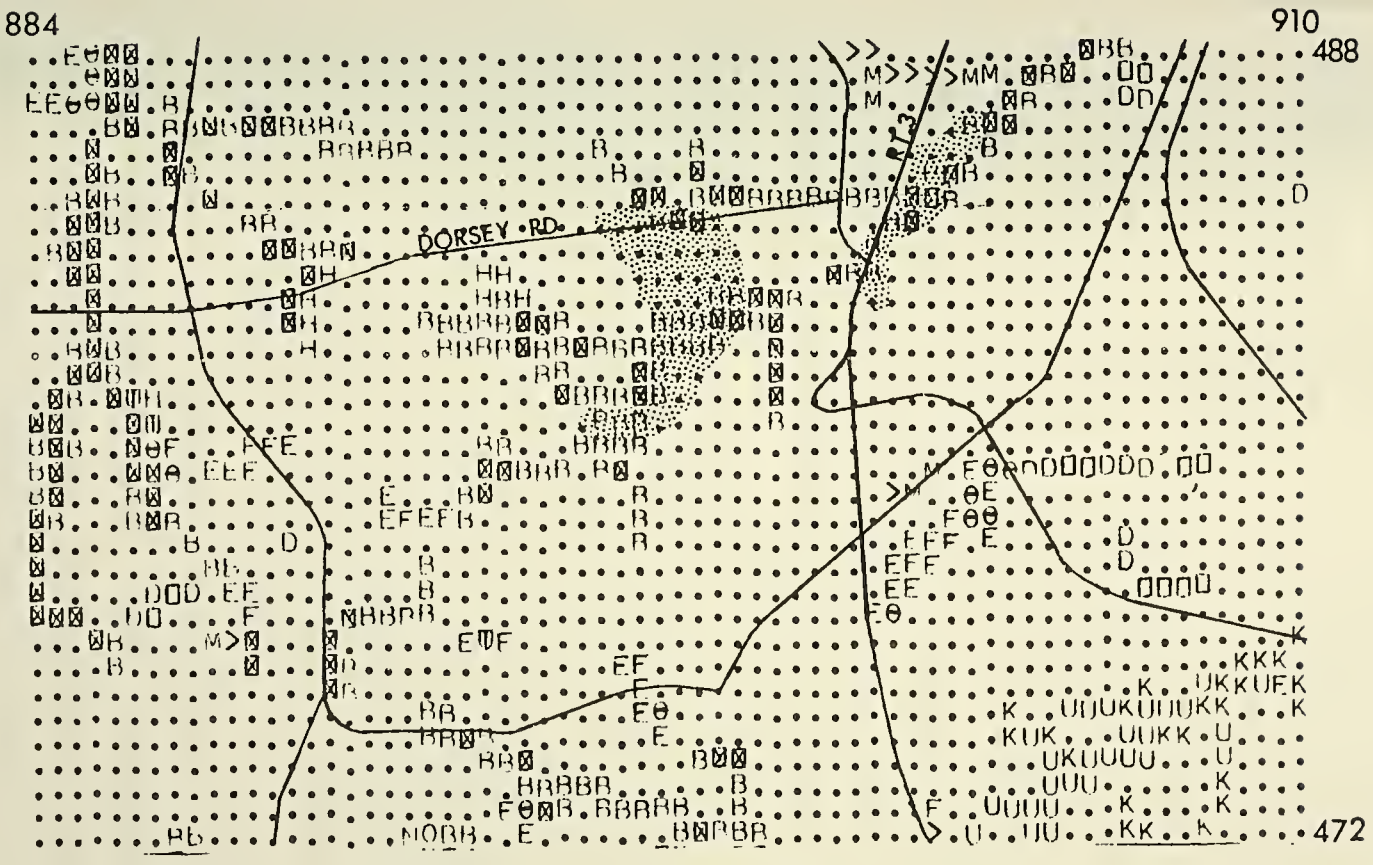
Just to the east of Baltimore-Washington International Airport, a tributary of Sawmill Creek drains a large agricultural area of Rumford loamy sand. Truck crops of very high quality can be grown on these soils if practices are used to conserve moisture and fertility.

West of Route 3 and south of Dorsey Road, large areas of Evesboro loamy sand with 0 to 6 percent slopes can be found near the Bibb (alluvial) soils. Small slivers of Evesboro and Galestown loamy sands of 6 to 12 percent and 12 to 40 percent slopes are usually adjacent to the alluvial soils.

In contrast to the alluvial soils, the loamy sands tend to be draughty. They have a low available moisture capacity and low natural fertility. Permanent land cover is needed to prevent washing or blowing of the sandy material. The large areas of Evesboro loamy sand have slight to moderate

COMPUTER STUDY AREA

Figure 5.



ALLUVIAL SOILS

N

ALL OTHER SOILS

PARK/RECREATIONAL AREA

ANY PRINT SYMBOL — ALLUVIAL SOILS

Figure 6

limitations for urban development with public utilities. The rapid permeability of these soils could cause pollution of wells and streams nearby; therefore, the use of onsite sewage disposal systems should be limited.

Generally, two different soil problems prevail in and around the nonurbanized portion of Sawmill Creek. First, the alluvial soils could present severe limitations on facility construction. They are usually left undeveloped as open space for stream valley preservation. Second, the loamy sands could be blown or washed away after facility construction if left without permanent vegetative cover. Picnicking areas would be suited to these soils but the development of play fields would be limited due to draughtness. Paths and trails and other low density uses would be suitable along the steeper slopes.

Topography and Drainage Patterns

A segment of the U.S.G.S. 15' Quadrangle (Relay, Maryland) has been redrawn and is included for reference purposes. Generally, the 100 foot contour includes all of the major portions of Sawmill Creek. Though in some instances intermittent stream segments can be found around the 120 foot contour. The main stream course is contained by the 80 foot contour and below. Except in isolated areas immediately adjacent to the creek the changes in elevation in the detailed study area are not severe.

Sawmill Creek drains into Furnace Branch. It flows from the south and west to the north and east. The normal flows within the creek are not large nor is the stream course very wide. The stream course fades into several low wetland areas where the actual creek bed cannot be precisely located. At least one branch has been impounded. It is used for recreational purposes in Friendship Park. The developed area west of Crain Highway, south of Old

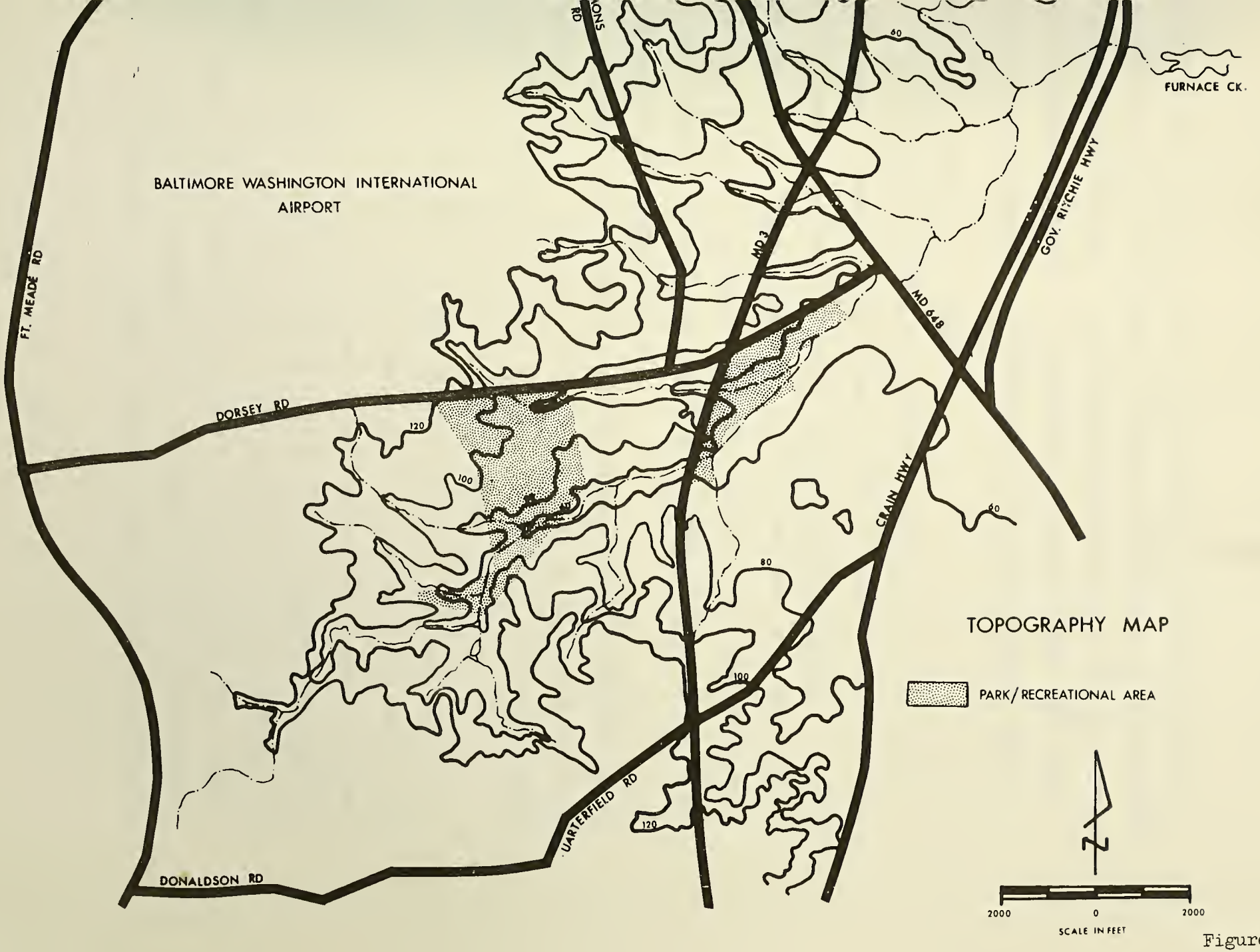

BALTIMORE WASHINGTON INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
FT. MEADE RD
DORSEY RD
DONALDSON RD
QUARTERFIELD RD
MD 3
MD 648
GOV. RITCHIE HWY
CRAIN HWY
FURNACE CK.
120
100
80
60
TOPOGRAPHY MAP
PARK/RECREATIONAL AREA
N
2000
0
2000
SCALE IN FEET

Figure 7.

Annapolis Road, and south of Md. Rt. #100 drains into the main stream course of Sawmill Creek. Four branches of the creek drain parts of Baltimore-Washington International Airport. The remaining western portions of the drainage area are developed at relatively low densities with resulting storm water impacts that are not as severe as those associated with the more urbanized areas.

Engineering Geology and Aquifers

The following discussion of on-site engineering geology is based upon the material contained in the Department of State Planning's publication No. 205, September 1974 (second printing), Geology, Aquifers, Minerals. It should be noted that the engineering geology maps utilized along with that publication were primarily lithologic rather than formational. In many instances, several geologic formations were mapped as one because of similarities in lithology and engineering behavior.

The entire area considered for on-site investigation is underlaid by the Patapsco Formation. Generally, this formation consists of clay and sandy clay usually less than 80 feet thick. Sand beds are commonly 10 to 12 feet thick; however, locally, they can be up to 30 feet thick.

Since the formation is composed of unconsolidated sediment, it is considered soft on a soft, medium, hard scale. Iron nodules may be common, but large boulders of any kind are rare. Power equipment can be used for excavations without the need for blasting. Where it is necessary to cut through areas and where cuts would remain after construction, this formation does have a tendency to slump along these cut faces. In addition, there is a tendency toward poor drainage (standing water, etc.) except where thick beds of sand occur at the surface. This condition seems to exist throughout the detailed

study area.

There is a close physical relationship between geology and aquifer formations. The detailed study area is underlaid by the Patapsco and Raritan Aquifer Formations. An aquifer is a permeable underground geological formation through which water flows and a recharge area is the place where water enters the aquifer. It should be noted that several County wells are in operation just north and east of the detailed study area.

Water-bearing sands in the undifferentiated Patapsco and Raritan Formations comprise the most widely used aquifers in the Maryland Coastal Plain. The thickness of the combined formations ranges from a few feet in the outcrop area to hundreds of feet thick to the south and east.

The Patapsco and Raritan Formations are a source of groundwater for several towns including Annapolis, Glen Burnie and Odenton. The chemical quality of the water is generally good, but locally treatment for iron removal and deacidification is required.

The protection of the as yet undeveloped portions of the aquifer recharge areas is possible without limiting their use for recreation and open space purposes. The location and type of recreation activities would be adjusted to safeguard as much of the aquifer recharge area as possible.

Vegetation Types

At the point where Sawmill Creek crosses under Queenstown Road, one finds a forested area with some open spots along the stream. Overstory and shrub layer densities are medium with a medium high ground cover density. Southern red oad is most dominant in the overstory followed by tulip poplar. Virginia pines are scattered through the area and are of sapling, pole and mature sizes.

Several pole size black locust also exist here. Both the Southern red oaks and tulip poplars are of sapling, pole and mature size ranges. Ground cover present in December consisted of grasses milkweed, honesuckle, poison ivy, numerous briars, and dried weeks such as goldenrod. A large Virginia pine area also exists along Queenstown Road from slightly west of the Sawmill Creek and Queenstown Road intersection to a point slightly east of W.B. and A. Road.

Many Virginia pines (pole and mature sizes) exist in the forested area along Sawmill Creek where it crosses under W.B. and A. Road. The stream at this point is extremely small, about a foot wide, and much trash is spread out on the surrounding land. Also present are sassafras saplings, pole size Southern red oaks, a few pole size red oaks, several pole to mature size black-locust and fairly numerous sapling to pole size red maples. Honeysuckle vines are very numerous and are the prevalent ground cover. Mosses are also present in the ground cover.

The area along the northern side of Sawmill Creek from directly south of Friendship Park and east to Route 3 is a forested area with medium density overstory. A high density shrub layer was alao present and due to the time of year, a low density ground cover. Honeysuckle is the most prevalent ground cover; mosses (white cushion, broom, velvet and spoon mosses) and briars are also numerous. A few ferns, partridgeberry, mushrooms and shelf fungi are also found in the area. In coniferous parts of the forest scattered areas (or individual plants) of ground pine, spotted wintergreen and blueberry (or azalea) are present. The more western portion of this stretch of stream has a few staghorn sumac saplings in the area closest to Friendship Park, along with a group of older saplings. Mature tulip poplars are the dominant overstory tree in this portion. These tulip poplars give way to white oak and red oak as the

dominant overstory trees as one moves east toward Route 3, while loblolly and Virginia pine become dominant overstory trees as one moves northeast and uphill. Sapling and pole size hollies are extremely numerous near the stream, especially in the more western portion of this part of the stream. Poison ivy, honeysuckle and briars are climbing on trees in various areas. Rhododendron is scattered throughout and an area of steeplebush (or snowbell) is present along the stream in the shrub layer. Red maple saplings, arrowwood seedlings, pole and mature size red oaks and sapling to mature size white oaks are in the more eastern portion approaching Route 3. A few mature loblolly pines, reaching to 55 feet, are present along the flood plain level, but their numbers increase as one goes east and uphill. A large coniferous area is present on the north side of Sawmill Creek behind houses and uphill from the stream, going toward Route 3. Most of this coniferous area is pole to mature Virginia pines and also loblollies (as mentioned above); pole to mature Southern red oaks (to 60 feet) and blackjack oad and cherry saplings.

On the south side of Sawmill Creek near Route 3 a large conifer area, probably Virginia pine, exists. The area above Jones Road contains grasses, and an evergreen nursery consisting mainly of spruce and some Virginia pine (with staghorn sumac, blackjack oak seedlings, and grasses) exists to the east and south, around the telephone lines and the loop of Rt. 100 ending on Rt. 3.

Over half of Friendship Park, along with the tracts of land from W.B. and A. Road west to Rt. 652 are open fields with a few scattered low trees and grasses.

No unique types of vegetation have been found in the detailed study area which would mandate preservation or conservation. The area's vegetation would probably not suffer any adverse impacts if intensive recreation activities were developed.

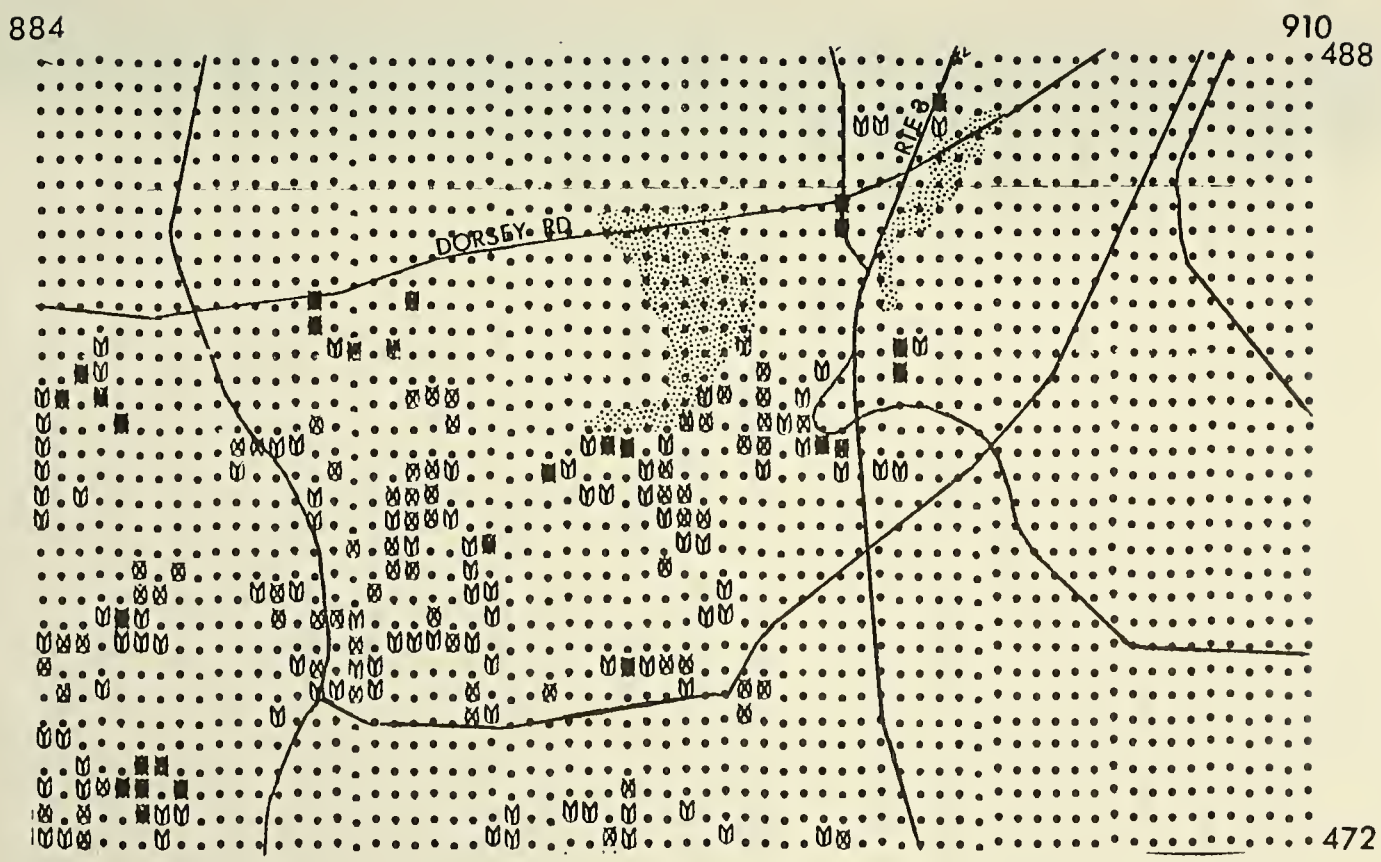
Wildlife Habitat

Wildlife habitat information for the area under study was developed from data found in the Maryland Automated Geographic Information system as noted earlier. A variety of natural features, related land use categories were compared in different combinations to determine the likelihood for interspersion of wildlife habitats. Several types of wildlife habitats were analyzed; openland, woodland, and wetland.

Good interspersion for openland wildlife habitats would occur if cropland areas were found in combination with upland brush, pasture, forest, or wetland areas. Openland and woodland habitat interspersion was considered good if upland brush were found mixed with forested areas. Woodland wildlife habitat interspersion was considered good if forested areas were mixed with small areas of cropland, upland brush, pasture, wetland, or water. Good wetland wildlife habitat interspersion consisted of areas of wetland and a variety of forest, brush, and pasture lands. Any other conditions were felt to be poor habitats.

The computer generated map shows that all those areas with good open and woodland wildlife habitat interspersions are south of Friendship Park in less urbanized parts of the study area. The area adjacent to Sawmill Creek downstream of the Severn Recreation Area consists of poor wildlife habitats according to this analysis.

Based upon the computerized data, no significant wildlife habitats seem to be present in the study area. In addition, preliminary field check of the area by the Department of Natural Resources staff indicated that no tracks, dens, or other significant signs of wildlife could be found. However, any recreation development should respect and protect the quality of the existing wildlife.



WILDLIFE HABITAT INTERSPERSION

PARK/RECREATIONAL AREA

GOOD FOR OPENLAND WILDLIFE

GOOD FOR OPENLAND AND WOODLAND WILDLIFE

GOOD FOR WOODLAND WILDLIFE

GOOD FOR WOODLAND AND WETLAND WILDLIFE

GOOD FOR WETLAND WILDLIFE

POOR FOR ALL WILDLIFE TYPES

Figure 8

ANALYSIS OF THE SAWMILL AREA RELATED TO THE STATE COMPREHENSIVE OUTDOOR RECREATION PLAN UPDATE

Statewide Outdoor Recreation General Overview

There is a continuing awareness on the part of the land managing agencies within the State of the need and importance to preserve and conserve the State's most unique and fragile natural resources. Simultaneously, there is the continuing demand on the part of the general public to utilize these unique resources in one form or another. It is within this context that Maryland's unique land resources are acquired and maintained for preservation and for providing outdoor recreation opportunities to meet a growing demand for public open spaces.

It is within this context that acreage is acquired and added to the public trust. There are general guidelines which the State applies in its selection process when evaluating a potential site for State acquisition. Some of these guidelines include but are not exclusively used in the determination of where a park should be located and how large the site should be. One of the first considerations is the resource itself that is being proposed for acquisition. Is the proposed area of suitable size such that the resource will be protected from dispoilation from over-use while still providing sufficient outdoor recreation opportunities to those visitors who choose to visit the site? Is the proposed site for a State facility unique to the area in terms of the character and resource? Does the area under consideration possess rare or unusual resources or habitat that are threatened with extinction or irrevocable destruction? Lastly, what alternatives can be employed in the protection and preservation of the candidate site?

Each of the above considerations in combination or in total must exist if the State is to invest its limited fiscal resources for both acquisition and development of any State facility. Given the limited financial resources that are available for the acquisition and development of State parks, every effort must be made to first secure those lands which have unusual or unique qualities.

Recreation and Open Space Plan Phase II Policy Analysis

The policies found in the State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation and Open Space Plan Phase II guide the State, local governmental agencies and private enterprise in providing open space and recreation areas. The Plan contained seven policies and associated recommendations to help unify outdoor recreation and open space planning, programming, acquisition and development. A complete listing of these policies and recommendations is included in Appendix 3.

The first policy deals with planning and locating recreation areas according to needs. The area under study is located in a high priority location, but several other State parks already serve that same resident population. Citizen involvement in needs identification has been incorporated in this study as recommended by this first policy. The existing County parks and the Friendship Park facility leased from the State in the area also follow the recommendations made in the first policy. If one considers the existing State and local recreational facilities a wide variety is now available to area residents. State/County cooperation has been utilized to bring the existing facilities into being and will be continued.

The second policy deals with providing the maximum possible number of outdoor recreation opportunities. Low intensity recreation uses on open

tracts such as flood plains, wooded areas, or steep slopes could be provided within the general study area. A utility easement may be available for some recreational use. There do not appear to be any historic structures or sites in the area in need of preservation or which could be incorporated into a State park. The recreational potential of the existing creek may not be great due to its small size and flow. Though urban families would have access to the area, few cultural or significant natural areas are present. A joint government venture may be well suited to solving the recreational needs found in the area.

An opportunity may exist to acquire and control land within the general study area before encroaching development precludes this possibility. Additional bicycling and/or hiking corridors could be suitable for the areas adjacent to the stream. An emphasis on County and local development of community parks may be possible. Little opportunity for increased tourist activity is evident. Finally, the desired mix of water resources, historic sites, and significant geologic or ecologic interest is not present.

The third policy deals with the preservation of the natural characteristics of the land and water. A County park facility which is leased from the State is in the vicinity along with three other County recreation areas. These could be further safeguarded from urban encroachment by additional recreational acquisition and development. The protection of a free flowing stream from development within the general study area would be possible. The utilization of flood plains and poorly drained areas for open space could be achieved through County actions. The County could also place emphasis upon discouraging development incompatible with the recreational opportunities. Open space zoning could be extended to include more of the general study

area. It should be noted that no outstanding natural or scenic areas have been encountered of the type generally desired in a State park.

The fourth policy deals with the preservation of rare plant and animal forms and extraordinary habitats if they are present. In this regard, perhaps wildlife management in certain areas could prove feasible, but no evidence exists which indicates the presence of any extraordinary plants or animals within the study area. The natural habitats available do appear to be limited by urban land use and related intrusions.

The fifth policy deals with using a variety of methods to preserve and acquire open space. Perhaps, conservation easements and/or preferential taxation and assessment techniques could prove useful. Purchase of property with leaseback agreements seems to be well suited to the area under study. Appropriate use of zoning, subdividion regulations, and other development controls by the County would help to reduce future development related impacts. Agricultural land preservation would be difficult to incorporate within the development of a park system in the area. The best agricultural land in the area is separated from the main part of Sawmill Creek by Route 3. Other somewhat poorer quality agricultural land, which is interspersed among woodlands, is located in and around W.B.&A. Road. It has very poor quality and limited value for inclusion in a proposed park. No outstanding geologic resources are known to be located in the area. Some of the industrially and residentially zoned properties in the vicinity of Sawmill Creek may offer limited recreational opportunities to area residents prior to development.

The sixth policy deals with providing scenic roads and trails. Scenic roads do not seem to be appropriate due to the large number of roads which already adversely impact the area. On the other hand, an interconnecting

system of walking, hiking, or biking trails along the creek could add significant recreational amenity to the area and link the existing County park facilities. There doesn't appear to be any additional scenic, historic, or cultural sites which could be linked to the existing facilities.

The seventh policy deals with encouraging a partnership between the private and public sector to conserve resources. Due to the lack of additional cultural resources in the area, there appears to be reduced opportunities for private enterprise to plan and manage recreational facilities.

Based upon this review of SCORP policies and recommendations, it appears that the detailed study area does not sufficiently meet the criteria necessary to establish a State park.

Relationship to Current Planning Activities

As part of the current planning activities of the Department of State Planning to update the State's Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan, a general statewide recreation capability analysis has been completed. This analysis was based upon the physical, geologic, climatic, soil, vegetative, water, fish and wildlife, and unique natural characteristics of the State. These natural features were examined to determine potential capabilities to support various levels of recreation use which included active recreation, limited-use recreation, conservation, and preservation.

Activity areas are the most intensively developed recreation areas, ranging from a large complex offering multi-purpose recreational opportunities to small pockets of intensive active recreation; these areas may also include specialized recreation. The activity areas are not necessarily resource-based, although many may be located in or surrounded by natural areas of a limited use character. Active recreation areas should be developed harmoniously with

the surrounding environment, and located near urban areas. Limited use areas are areas developed at moderate intensity for such recreational activities as swimming, boating, and tent camping. These areas are unable to absorb as much recreational development as activity areas because of their more delicate environment. Conservation areas and preservation areas are devoted to very restricted and scattered low intensity activities such as hiking, fishing, wilderness camping and nature study, where the environment is kept undisturbed. Man-made facilities should be prohibited. Conservation and preservation areas should preserve and protect unique natural areas and complement recreation areas. They include wetlands, steep slopes, flood plains, dense woodland and other significant natural features.

An analysis of the Statewide recreation capability data base was undertaken which focused upon the Sawmill Creek area. As a result of this analysis, it was determined that the general Sawmill Creek study area, excluding the detailed study area, was heavily urbanized east of Route 3 and north of Dorsey Road, and as such has very little potential for future recreation and open space uses. Within the detailed Sawmill Creek study area, the analysis indicated several characteristics. First, the detailed study area has a small amount of scattered urban development, while the undeveloped land within the detailed study area has a high building and septic capability. This factor indicates that the Sawmill Creek study area has a moderate to high potential for supporting active or intensive recreation uses. Second, the detailed study area contains a mix of agricultural and forest cover and the area has a good potential for ground water supply. These factors indicate the Sawmill Creek study area has only a moderate potential to support various limited use recreation activities. Finally, this analysis indicated that the

detailed study area does not exhibit any characteristics considered to be of a sensitive, fragile or unique nature. Thus, the Sawmill Creek study area has a low potential for both the conservation and preservation of natural features.

In summary, while the general Sawmill Creek area has a need for expanded recreation and open space opportunties, the site is more suited to provide active or limited day use recreation versus overall conservation and/or preservation.

An incompatible activity such as the airport which intrudes upon a proposed park area has detrimental impacts for many recreational experiences. Given the relatively high mobility of the State's population as a whole, many conservation and preservation-related recreational needs may be better served elsewhere. On the other hand, active and limited day use recreation needs usually are best met by local or county park systems, not State parks. Therefore, it appears that in this case the linking and expansion of the existing local park and recreation system through cooperative efforts of both the State and county governments would best meet the recreation needs of area residents.

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION No. 75

By: Senator Lipin and the Committee on
Economic Affairs
Rules suspended
Introduced and read first time: March 15, 1977
Assigned to: Rules

Re-referred to: Economic Affairs, March 18, 1977
Committee Report: Favorable with amendments
Senate Action: Adopted
Read second time: March 25, 1977

RESOLUTION NO. _____

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION

A Senate Joint Resolution concerning

Sawmill Creek
(Anne Arundel County)

FOR the purpose of ~~requiring~~ requesting that land be set aside in Anne Arundel County for a Sawmill Creek Park and that the Department of State Planning amend a certain plan to this end.

Land should be set aside as a sanctuary for the citizens of Maryland and particularly of Anne Arundel County, a county which is experiencing accelerated urbanization with 1976 setting an all-time comstruction record.

The facilities programmed for open space needs to be increased in the rapidly growing area. At present, the rapidly expanding northern sector of the county contains only Severn Run State Park and a small portion of Patapsco State Park. Yet, in 1975 the population of Anne Arundel County was 344,756, with 193,146 in the north end.

The area in quescion is inappropriate for being zoned for housing, due to the location of Baltimore-Washington International Airport. Therefore, the development of open space in this area would serve as a buffer zone from Baltimore-Washington International Airport, as well as being a valuable State park; now, therefore, be it

EXPLANATION:
Underlining indicates amendments to the resolution.
~~Strike-out~~ indicates matter stricken from resolution.
Numerals at right identify computer lines of text.

2 SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION No. 75

RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the Department of State Planning is requested to amend the State's comprehensive outdoor recreation and open space plan to include the purchase and development of a State park using the lands on the headwaters of Sawmill Creek in Anne Arundel County; and be it further

RESOLVED, That copies of this Resolution be sent to Mr. Vladimir Wahbe, Secretary of State Planning.

Approved:

Governor.

President of the Senate.

Speaker of the House of Delegates.

COUNTY COUNCIL OF ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY, MARYLAND

Legislative Session 1977, Legislative Day No. 9

Resolution No. 26-77

Introduced by Mr. McGuirk, Councilman

By the County Council, May 2, 1977

RESOLUTION SUPPORTING SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 75
URGING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF SAW MILL CREEK STATE PARK

WHEREAS, the General Assembly of Maryland by passage of Senate Joint Resolution No. 75, requested the Department of State Planning to amend the State's Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation and Open Space plan to include the purchase and development of a state park using the lands on the headwaters of Saw Mill Creek in Anne Arundel County; and

WHEREAS, the northern section of Anne Arundel County has experienced accelerated urbanization; and

WHEREAS, the northern section of the County contains only Severn River State Park and a small portion of Patapsco State Park; and

WHEREAS, the development of open space along Saw Mill Creek would serve as a buffer zone from the Baltimore-Washington International Airport, a State facility located in Anne Arundel County, as well as being a valuable sanctuary for the citizens of Maryland and Anne Arundel County; and

WHEREAS, the Saw Mill Creek State Park is supported and has been formally endorsed by twenty-seven citizen organizations in the North County; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED THAT THE COUNTY COUNCIL OF ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY, MARYLAND, Joins the General Assembly of Maryland in urging the prompt purchase and development of a state park using lands on the headwaters of Saw Mill Creek in Anne Arundel County; and be it further

RESOLVED, that copies of this Resolution be sent to the Honorable Marvin Mandel, Governor of Maryland and Valdimir Wahbe, Secretary of State Planning.

READ AND PASSED this 10th day of May, 1977.

By Order: Evelyn M. Buettcher

Evelyn M. Buettcher, Secretary

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT RESOLUTION NO. 26-77 IS TRUE AND CORRECT AND DULY ADOPTED BY THE COUNTY COUNCIL OF ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY.

George F. Bachman, Jr.

Appendix 3

STATEWIDE POLICIES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

I. PLAN AND LOCATE OPEN SPACE AND OUTDOOR RECREATION AREAS ACCORDING TO PEOPLE'S NEEDS.

1. Give high priority to the location of recreation areas within 45 minutes travel time of Baltimore and Washington, D.C., and within 30 minutes of an unincorporated area or town over 25,000 population.

2. Seek citizen involvement to help determine specific recreation needs.

3. Provide convenient facilities to meet the day-use needs of urban residents.

4. Provide a wide variety of State and local recreation facilities and programs tailored to the demand of each facility's service area.

5. Support the establishment of a Potomac National River for the preservation of scenic and historic values and as a national area for outdoor recreation.

6. Continue strong cooperation and coordination between the State and the regions in planning and developing future Federal, State and local facilities.

II. PROVIDE THE MAXIMUM POSSIBLE NUMBER OF OUTDOOR RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES.

1. Encourage low intensity recreation uses on open tracts such as flood plains, wooded areas, steep slopes, and other significant natural features, provided proper safeguards are taken to protect local environment.

2. Encourage the use of utility easements as potential outdoor recreation and open space areas.

3. Preserve historic structures and sites.

4. Utilize the recreation potential of waterbodies as well as agricultural research centers and wildlife management areas.

5. Provide access for inner-city families: state parks, major historic and cultural sites, significant natural areas and water-oriented public areas.

6. Encourage the multi-purpose use of recreation and conservation lands, provided an ecological balance can be maintained.

7. Encourage the construction of mammade lakes, where feasible, within or near the metropolitan centers; and acquire available surrounding land for picnicking, camping and other outdoor recreation opportunities.

8. Develop information programs to further the appreciation and understanding of Maryland's natural, cultural, and historic resources.

9. Enforce water and air pollution control measures to preserve a healthful environment and to expand the recreation potential of the State.

10. Provide recreation facilities for the handicapped of all ages.

11. Encourage joint governmental ventures to provide facilities in major recreation areas.

12. Publicly acquire or control land with conservation or recreation value before encroaching development and rising land values preclude this possibility.

13. Provide public access to estuaries, the Chesapeake Bay, and every major river in Maryland.

14. Analyze surplus state and federal properties to determine whether they can be used for recreation.

15. Provide corridors for limited recreation uses such as bicycling, hiking, and others which relate to streams, shorelines and unique resource and historic areas.

16. Where feasible, analyze and prepare site plans for opening reservoir sites to multi-purpose recreational use.

17. Emphasize county and local development of community parks and school/park complexes to maximize local recreational opportunities.

18. Promote tourism connected with recreation, scenic, historic and natural areas.

19. Develop a system of interpretive centers at strategic locations to serve tourism, recreation and outdoor education purposes.

20. Emphasize the location of recreation areas at water resource sites and areas of historic, geologic and ecologic interest.

III. <u>PRESERVE THE NATURAL CHARACTERISTICS OF LAND AND WATER</u>.

1. Control land uses adjacent to parks and major scenic or historic sites to prevent urban encroachment.

2. Protect freeflowing streams and rivers, and carefully evaluate proposed impoundments--especially in andromous fish areas.

3. Encourage the preservation of submerged lands for wildlife and fish habitats rather than draining them for development.

4. Control shoreline development along the Bay and the ocean.

5. Develop and implement a Statewide river and stream preservation and development program.

6. Encourage recreational use of the Chesapeake Bay by acquiring public access points, particularly at the confluence of stream valleys and the Bay.

7. Preserve outstanding natural and scenic areas, and irreplaceable historic sites and structures, and incorporate into an open space system.

8. Utilize excessive slopes, flood plains, poorly drained lands and other unique natural resources as major sources of open space.

9. Continue to emphasize nature interpretation and nature-oriented facilities.

10. Emphasize the acquisition of development rights along stream valleys, bay and river or ocean shoreline, and discourage development incompatible with the recreation opportunities associated with these resources.

11. Continue implementing legislation and protection programs for the Chesapeake Bay and inland wetlands with emphasis on appropriate land development regulations, conservation zoning, land donations and purchase of development rights in lieu of outright acquisition.

12. Regulate and preserve all off-shore islands wherever feasible for wilderness boat landing, conservation, and limited recreation use.

IV. EMPHASIZE THE PRESERVATION OF RARE PLANT AND ANIMAL FORMS AND EXTRAORDINARY HABITATS.

1. Create more wildlife sanctuaries and management areas in places that provide natural habitats.

2. Enact and enforce strong legislation to protect fish and wildlife or to insure safe removal.

3. Enforce strict soil conservation measures in areas being developed.

V. USE A VARIETY OF METHODS TO PRESERVE AND ACQUIRE OPEN SPACE LANDS.

1. Encourage stewardship.

2. Utilize scenic or conservation easements, preferential taxation and assessment, purchase and leaseback agreements and subdivision regulations.

3. Endorse full funding of the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

4. Encourage well planned new towns and a variety of development controls: cluster development, planned unit development and flood plain zoning.

5. Reserve the best agricultural lands and geologic resource areas for continued production, or preservation as rural landscape, through regulatory measures.

6. Encourage the use of both public and private lands for outdoor recreation, including the purchase of public recreation rights and scenic easements to expand open space beyond publicly owned land and encouraging land owners to provide recreational opportunities for the public under multiple-use income-producing arrangements.

7. Streamline non-fee-simple acquisition techniques to provide more opportunities to implement open space and recreation programs.

VI. PROVIDE SCENIC ROADS AND TRAILS THAT ARE EFFICIENT AND ATTRACTIVE.

1. Develop a system of scenic roads incorporating historic, cultural and unusual geologic features of the State.

2. Establish an interconnecting system of walking, hiking and riding trails along the ocean beach, bays, estuaries, rivers and streams, linking activity centers.

3. Use scenic roads and trails to link park lands, conservation areas, scenic landscapes and historic and cultural sites.

4. Reevaluate the historic marker program.

5. Designate and expand the Potomac Heritage Trail along its entire length.

VII. ENCOURAGE A PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN PRIVATE ENTERPRISE AND GOVERNMENT TO CONSERVE AND DEVELOP NATURAL RESOURCES AND TO PROVIDE FACILITIES AND SERVICES FOR PUBLIC ENJOYMENT

1. Educate private enterprise to provide quality services in or near State public recreation facilities.

2. Assist private enterprise in planning and managing facilities to meet recreation needs.

3. Develop guidelines for the attractive and economical location and design of facilities in or near areas of scenic and historic distinction.

4. Lease and develop some state park lands, through private enterprise, county and municipal agencies, for needed outdoor recreation facilities and programs.

5. Encourage the private sector to develop revenue-producing recreation facilities complimentary to the tourism attractions of the state and each region.

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